Miss Weston

Printing Office,

177, Great Brunswick-street,

Dublin, 6th of November 1861

My dear Friend – I have to thank you for the Patriot of Azeglio which reached me today safe and sound. You desire that last letter reached me rather more than ten days ago & I have been trying to pluck up courage to answer it. A strange superstition for me to use when talking of writing to you with whom I have so much enjoyed the chances of communication. But as I perceive that you think me greatly astray on the American Question I shrink from the idea of entering into controversy on a subject so difficult to treat satisfactorily by letter or in any other way except over the calm and leisure of social intercourse. I have claimed that the English people generally were sympathetic in the same sense as open to the word – & that the difference between them was any other than that inevitably resulting from difference of circumstances. But the difference of circumstance has been very great & quite sufficient to make the American maintenance of slavery very wonderful & incomprehensible to that vast majority of Englishmen who are unbefriendly acquainted with the antecedents which that institution has obtained over the

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minds of the American people. As far as the more intellectual and intelligent portion of our population exists a hostility to Slavery exists I think it must be admitted that we have Americans to thank for the circumstance — since a very large majority of ~~it~~ travelled Americans do their best, whenever they have the opportunity, to inculcate views favorable to Slavery or to make apologies for Slaveholders. For one word spoken in England by American abolitionists, more than 100 are spoken on the other side by their opponents. You have to ~~it~~ [illegible] that every anti-Slavery feeling was left in England when it not for the triumphant retail of our anti-Slavery experiments or achievements.

From all the testimony I can gather there is on the part of the South a war for the maintenance of the Union in which the right is entirely on the side of the North, & in which they have my hearty God speed — since it must weaken the Slave power. But is not a war for the purpose of abolishing or demolishing Slavery — it is not to as far as I can learn rather in perfection of intention — and it is therefore especially too much to look for English sympathy. The English dislike

slavery. But they dont care for the Union - and from the dislike to generally fell by Americans to England I do not wonder that. When Peace should regain the probable permanency of the Union with some complacency, since instead of an unfortunate & powerful opponent, two nations only to contribute who will have enough to do to watch one another without quarreling with him as heretofore

As far as the American government has been a grand Republican experiment which was a glory to the earth, & as an establishment which admit that it has been gloriously marred within the last twenty years, & that nothing that has been said or done by the Northern people of late shows that they contemplate any improvement in the matter of slavery.

With regard to myself I am conscious of no change for the worse in my feelings as an Englishman except that I despair of the Northern people being converted by moral influences or by any thing but the terrible teachings of adverse circumstances.

You thank my letters show that I take a
narrow of American affairs. I can only reply
that Mrs Chapman has of late repeatedly
thanked me for the tenor of them & that in
the very last of several which I have had
from her she says she wishes H. Martineau
was the editor of the Standard & that I was the
American correspondent. I by no means think
so highly of myself - but she is a clear headed
& an honest woman & would not say what
she does not think. Several of my American
friends have in like manner approved of
my letters in very flattering terms. I am
on the best terms that we dont agree with
them but you will give me the particulars of
your objections & I will endeavour to amend
with heartily thank you for your hints.

I have no friend - but for England, but I
take part - and I do think the prevalent
American feeling towards her is more like
an unreasoning & unkind some antipathy
than an objection founded on reason. I
think ~~that~~ most Americans are rather sorry
not to have an opportunity of snubbing &
finding fault with her - which I regard as a state
of mind unbecoming a great and magnanimous people - & our church is likely enough
to create a hundred feelings on this side
of the waters.

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I was really sorry that your letter in reply to my inquiry directed to Paris reached me so late that I could not communicate by letter with you before leaving our shores. I would have liked to bid them farewell & perhaps to send a letter & love to them by John Brown to their care. It was tantalizing to know that this could have been done if I had only known their Liverpool address. From the tenor of your letter I saw that it would be extremely ~~&~~ undesirable to attempt to see them. Otherwise I would have made the attempt, although my son Tom's bride only reached home the morning your party sailed from Liverpool.

The most interesting recollection connected with our visit to Italy with always be that of your dear sweet sister whom I heartily admired & loved. Having seen her I no longer wondered at the love and tenderness you lavished upon her with all the warmth of your warm heart & impulsive nature. My daughter greatly values the little Roman scarfs she sent to them by me & they only wear them on very particular occasions.

I wish to say that the letter you mention Mrs Ward & Mrs L'Engle having written never reached me. I did not know the first letter that she had two children. I am heartily

glad to know they are happy & prosperous
They cannot be better than I wish them
to be. Is there any chance that we
may sometime see you here?

With my wifes love I am ever truly
Yours

Richd B Webb

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Printing Office,

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